DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 468 835 RC 022 121

AUTHOR	Anderson, Donald L.
TITLE	The Assembly: A Tool for Transforming Communities.
INSTITUTION	Schumacher (E. F.) Society, Great Barrington, MA.
SPONS AGENCY	J. M. Kaplan Fund, New York, NY.
PUB DATE	1999-00-00
NOTE	30p.; Presented at the Annual E. F. Schumacher Lectures (16th, Stockbridge, MA, October 26, 1996). Edited by Hildegarde Hannum.
AVAILABLE FROM	E. F. Schumacher Society, 140 Jug End Rd., Great Barrington, MA 01230 ($5). For full text: http://www.schumachersociety.org/lec-and.html.
PUB TYPE	Opinion Papers (120) -- Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	EDRS Price MF01 Plus Postage. PC Not Available from EDRS
DESCRIPTORS	*Community Action; Community Development; Community Organizations; Economically Disadvantaged; Educational Change; Elementary Secondary Education; *Empowerment; *Participative Decision Making; *Poverty; *Self Determination; Social Change
IDENTIFIERS	North Carolina; Virginia

ABSTRACT

Conventional anti-poverty efforts have failed because they have not created the structures for the poor to help themselves, and they are designed and controlled by people outside of the affected communities. Introduced in 1968 by the National Association of the Southern Poor, the Assembly is a non-political structure that organizes community members into a systematic relationship with one another to solve individual and community problems. Under an Assembly organization, a county or city is organized into districts of manageable size--50 people--called conferences. Each conference elects one representative who stays in touch with the conference through seven committee members, each of whom stays in contact with six other conference members. Representatives meet at a community-wide Assembly. Citizens bring their problems to regularly held conference meetings for discussion by the group and creative problem-solving. The problems are written down and passed on to the representative. Problems that cannot be resolved by the representative are passed on to the executive council, which is made up of chairpersons assigned to such areas as employment, social services, housing, and education. Forty-one counties and two cities in Virginia and North Carolina have organized assemblies, and examples are given of successes they have achieved, including registering voters, getting assembly leaders on local governing boards, improving educational systems and infrastructure, implementing creative senior citizen and health care programs, and even influencing statewide elections. (TD)

Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made
from the original document.

ED 468 835

The Assembly

presented by

Donald L. Anderson

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL IN MICROFICHE, AND IN ELECTRONIC MEDIA FOR ERIC COLLECTION SUBSCRIBERS ONLY, HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Donald L Anderson

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

2A

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☑ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

Sixteenth Annual E. F. Schumacher Lectures
Stockbridge, Massachusetts
October 1996

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

FL022121

The Assembly

presented by

Don Anderson

Sixteenth Annual E. F. Schumacher Lectures
First Congregational Church
Stockbridge, Massachusetts
October 1996

RC022121

E. F. Schumacher Society

Acknowledgment

The E. F. Schumacher Society extends its appreciation to Furthermore, the publication program of The J. M. Kaplan Fund, for funding the publication of this lecture.

The Assembly: A Tool for Transforming Communities
by Donald L. Anderson

Edited by Hildegarde Hannum

© 1999 E. F. Schumacher Society and Donald L. Anderson. May be reproduced or transmitted only with permission of the author and the E. F. Schumacher Society.

Drawings on front and back covers by Martha Shaw

Printed on recycled paper.

E. F. Schumacher Society
140 Jug End Road
Great Barrington, MA 01230

The Assembly:
A Tool for Transforming Communities

by Donald L. Anderson

The concept I am about to describe—the concept of the Assembly, which is a means of encouraging the low-income people of entire counties and cities to deal with their own individual and community problems—is one I first proposed in 1956. After searching for financial aid for ten years I received my initial funding from another dreamer, then gradually from churches and major foundations.

In 1966 I became General Counsel of the U. S. House of Representatives Anti-Poverty Subcommittee, which had created the anti-poverty legislation. Prior to its passage the subcommittee's staff had extensive conversations with the staff of Sargent Shriver (then the prospective head of the Office of Economic Opportunity, which was to administer the legislation). Good programs such as Headstart and the Job Corps resulted from that legislation; however, I was dissatisfied with the approach to community action in the Act.

My main objection was its emphasis on creating programs prior to organizing the impoverished community. This is the approach of most anti-poverty initiatives, and it results in programs that are designed and controlled by persons outside the community. Under the community action programs, only a fraction of the community was organized, perhaps less than a fifth or even a tenth. That meant the programs put forward were in response to the needs of only a small part of the community. I believed that an *entire* impoverished community could be efficiently organized, and the poor themselves could then express their priorities, but my point of view did not get into the legislation or its implementation

Destiny dictated that I was not to be on the subcommittee staff for long. The powerful chairman of the House Committee on Education and Labor, Adam Clayton Powell, who had created the subcommittee, was ejected from the House, and as a consequence I was given twenty-four hours to clear my desk. I worked for another House committee for a few months after that, but then I was finally able to find funding for my idea, and in 1968 I went into the field to implement it.

The idea of the Assembly is very logical, perhaps too logical to be immediately comprehended. I sometimes have difficulty communicating it completely. For instance, about six months ago I met with the vice-president of a major foundation to which I had submitted a grant proposal. We talked for three hours, at the end of which time she asked me, "And by the way, what is an Assembly?"

I'll try to explain the concept to you comprehensively and clearly. The purpose of the Assembly is to strengthen

neighborhood institutions and leadership at the grassroots level. One of the great problems facing us in the United States today is that communities do not exist. People are not connected with one another. Not only are social services making little or no impact, but there also has been a notable decline in the efficacy of institutions such as public schools. Remedies do not appear to be readily available.

To arrive at a solution one must begin with an understanding of the cause of the problem. What, for instance, is responsible for the decline in quality public education?

An article written by William Raspberry that appeared in *The Washington Post* on May 24 of this year addresses this question. He discusses a booklet written by David Mathews, the former president of the University of Alabama and President Ford's Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, who states that the problem with the schools in a city like the District of Columbia has to do with the disengagement between the schools and their "public."

Raspberry comments: "The public he is talking about is more than a collection of people such as you might find in a shopping mall, more than members of the same audience, more even than people who live near one another. He has in mind people who have a particular sort of relationship: who are committed to common purposes, who know they need one another even when they might not particularly like one another."

He continues, "These relationships lead to a distinctive kind of action, to cooperative civic action that is complementary and mutually reinforcing." And, Rasp-

berry says, Mathews is right—"right as well when he says that 'fundamental change [in public education] has to start with the public and within the community.... It is unlikely that schools will change unless communities change, unless citizens increase their capacity to band together and act together.'"

The article ends by asking: "But is that an important insight, or merely the interposition of another, equally vexing question: How do you change—or build—community? Maybe the thoughtful David Mathews will tell us in another book."

To answer Mathews's question the National Association of the Southern Poor (NASP), which I founded in 1968, introduced the idea of the Assembly.

What is an Assembly? It is a structure that brings the people of an entire community into a systematic relationship with one another for the purpose of solving individual and community problems. It is the organization of a community in such a manner that if a great many people want to do a particular thing, they can do it. It is a means of connecting masses of people through its formal structure and logical, systematic organization; a means, through such systematic organization, of establishing a channel of communication between the Assembly's elected leadership and every last man and woman in the community; a means by which large numbers of people may engage in a common effort. And it works!

The Assembly follows certain rules of logic: in order for masses of people to enter into collective decision-making they must be organized prior to any decisions having been made. This means that for an anti-poverty

effort to succeed, structure must be established prior to the creation of any program; otherwise it is likely that programs will be designed and controlled by persons outside the community.

We go into a community, and we divide it into Conferences of manageable size. Each Conference meets on a regular basis, and each sends a Representative to a central decision-making body, the Assembly. Within the Assembly each county or city is organized like a country, but instead of unwieldy Congressional districts there are districts of fifty people. These districts are called Conferences.

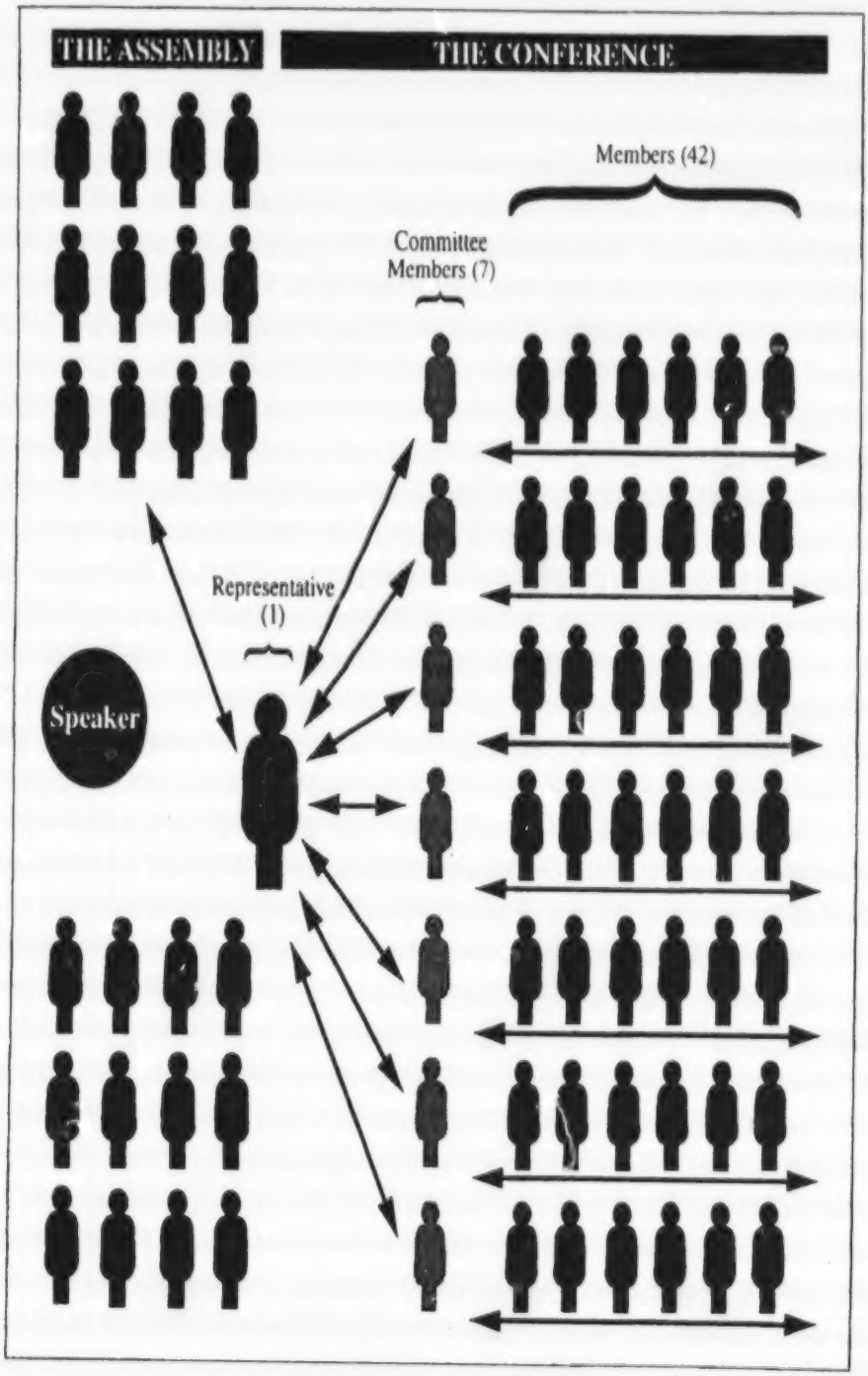
The representational dimension of the Assembly enables it to function community-wide. Each Conference elects one Representative. Thus, if there are five thousand adults (in cities, five thousand households) in a given community, there will be one hundred Representatives for one hundred groups of fifty people (in cities, fifty households). If there are ten thousand adults (or households), there will be two hundred Representatives. Representatives meet at a community-wide Assembly to discuss problems.

Communication is the key to success. Each Representative is in touch with fifty members through seven committee-persons, each of whom in turn communicates with six other members. (See diagram on page 7.)

The Conference provides a setting in which citizens can bring their problems to the group for discussion and creative problem-solving. Community members can fill out a Problem Sheet to address individual concerns. The sheet is given to their Representative. If the Representative

cannot solve the problem, it is passed on to the Executive Council, which is made up of a dozen chairpersons assigned to areas such as employment, social services, housing, etc. Problems range from disparities in government services to the need for job training to how to file for Social Security benefits to school problems confronting a member's children.

The Assembly is the heart of the NASP approach to community transformation. It grapples with issues affecting the county as a whole. Its actions often result in new and expanded educational programs, low-income housing projects, improved county facilities such as all-weather roads and modern sanitation systems, or enhanced health, welfare, and recreational services.



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Now you'll see a brief film we produced in 1989 that tells how whole communities have been transformed.

[Excerpts from the text of
"The Assembly: An Organization That Works"]

Commentator

The federal government has been fighting poverty with bureaucratic programs. After a multi-billion dollar effort, millions of Americans still live at a level of poverty commonly associated with Third-World countries. One of the worst areas is the region known as the Black Belt. Stretching across the nine southern states from Virginia to Louisiana, the Black Belt includes 259 rural and urban counties with large black populations. Small farmers are disappearing and industry is bypassing the area for foreign sites. As a result, 44 percent of the South's black population remains desperately poor, still suffering the legacy of slavery.

Conventional anti-poverty efforts have failed for two reasons. First, these programs have not created the structures for the poor to help themselves. Second, they are designed and controlled by people outside of the affected communities.

The critical question is how to engage entire communities in the fight against poverty. And this is possible only if the people who live in the communities build their own structure and leadership for providing assistance.

To promote this idea the National Association for the Southern Poor has created the Assembly. Working at the county level, the concept of the Assembly is based on an idea of Thomas Jefferson's:

> Among other improvements, I hope [the Virginia Legislature] will adopt the subdivision of our counties into wards. Each ward would thus become a small republic within itself and every man in the state would thus become an acting member of the common government, transacting in person a great portion of his rights and duties, subordinate indeed, but important, and entirely within his competence. The wit of man cannot devise a more solid base for a free, durable, and well administered republic.

Cliff Somerville, NASP Field Director

What we found is that the Assembly helped develop and bring out new leadership by giving a voice to people who normally don't get up in front of groups or normally don't get involved in, say, the local government. Through the Assembly they are able to come to meetings and participate. And not only participate in the Assembly; then they start to participate in other community organization meetings. And later on it carries them to local government.

Lloyd Hamlin, Principal, Surry County High School

I remember the black leaders in the county talking about the Assembly and attending Assembly meetings.

And I think the basic thing they got from the meetings, as I remember my mama and other people going, was a sense of focus, a setting of priorities and goals.

Gammiell Poindexter, Commonwealth Attorney, Surry County, Virginia

The Assemblies built up a network of local manpower, local interest in county government. It was an organization that existed throughout the county it served. And with that network you got people registered to vote. Those voters then made a difference in local elections.

Commentator

The idea of the Assembly is simple. Similar to Jefferson's wards, each county or city is organized like a country. But instead of being divided into Congressional districts it's divided into districts of fifty people. These districts are called Conferences. This arrangement assures an easy channel of communication without placing too much of a burden on one person. No one need be in touch with more than seven others. Every Representative is in contact with his or her seven committeemen, and each committeeman is in contact with the six other members.

Representative in Assembly meeting

Our concerns at the moment are for the handicapped, the elderly, and people of very low income. Now, I went to the Housing Assistance Office to get an assessment of the

program and to see if it was able to take care of the needs of the county. The information I got from Mrs. Wade was that it's not even able to take care of a third of the requests coming in.

Commentator

The Assembly is designed to be a body that can solve problems directly and develop programs that address the needs of the poor. It can do this because, first, it offers a structure of organization . Second, it provides a problem-solving mechanism for individual problems. And third, the Assembly gets directly involved in developing programs that meet the needs of the people. Let's look at each.

First, the basic structure permits the communication of problems by individuals who may not know where to go for help. Thus, a channel of communication is established which permits the leadership, who cannot be in touch with masses of people directly, to reach them through their Representatives.

T. C. Lane, Treasurer, Surry County, Virginia

That was the main problem we had: we couldn't get our news out. But after the Assembly came, we were able, through the community leaders, to reach all the people on every road.

Sadie L. Bland

Anything that's going on in the county that they have discussed in their Conference meetings, they bring back to us in our church services or our Sunday schools or any other organizations in the county, and then we discuss them.

Commentator

Second, the Assembly's problem-solving mechanism begins with the use of a "Problem Sheet." A person having a problem fills out the sheet and lists the needs.

Representative in Assembly meeting

The Problem Sheet is the only sure way we have of getting to you. The Assembly tries to reach everybody it can. I don't think there is anybody who ever filled out a Problem Sheet and sent it to this Assembly without the problem being solved.

L. Essex Moseley, President, Assembly of Charlotte County, Virginia

We react to the Problem Sheet. Now, we have had child abuse cases occurring in our school system. There was one in particular where a principal slapped a Special Ed child. We felt that was pretty bad. So the mother filled out a Problem Sheet and we took on the case. We went as far as we could to the point where the Superintendent came

and apologized to us for what happened in his system.

Commentator

The third part of the Assembly is the development of programs fitted to the needs of the people. These are decided upon by the Assemblies themselves. These programs may be for repairing roads or setting up a better education system.

Representative in Assembly meeting

At this time there is no housing for the handicapped in the county. There is very little for senior citizens. And the cost is so high for the housing that is available that they can't afford to live there.

Commentator

After Assembly meeting, the Representatives report back to their Conferences. Through the Assembly *a community is created where none previously existed*, and collective decision-making can take place.

Thirty-three counties [the figure has since risen to forty-one] and two cities in Virginia and North Carolina have organized Assemblies. These are at various levels of maturity and strength. Surry County, Virginia, is the home of one of the oldest Assemblies. Twenty years ago Surry was like many other Black Belt counties: segregated, no jobs for blacks, and no hope.

Lloyd Hamlin, Principal, Surry County High School

Most of the blacks were farmers. Some were fortunate enough to own land and farm for themselves. Many, though, were tenant farmers for either other blacks or for white farmers. And if you were a tenant for a white farmer, he attempted to control the extent to which you were educated, because it meant that he would always have a labor supply.

Commentator

Through the work of the Assembly, Surry County of today is a model county with opportunity for all its citizens. The Assembly's black leadership sits on every governing board, working side by side with whites for programs that benefit all the citizens.

Gerald Poindexter, Surry County Attorney

The Assembly knew where to go to get help. Knowing where to go may sound very basic; why don't these people know where to go? But it wasn't basic fifteen or sixteen years ago.

Walter Hardy, Chairman, Surry County
Board of Supervisors

The Assembly has given us a feeling that we can actually solve our own problems. It gives us a feeling of independence.

Commentator

The Assembly in Surry recognized that the future of the children depended upon the quality of their education. Following desegregation, all but six white children fled to private schools. The public school buildings were allowed to deteriorate. For years the Assembly labored to improve the schools.

Dr. C. P. Penn, Superintendent, Surry County Schools

It's helped me because the members of the Assembly have elected a board of supervisors that is sensitive to the needs of the students.

Commentator

The result of this hard work is the construction of a new $4.6 million high school and a $3 million elementary school. The superintendent and the principal are black. And the students have a brighter future.

Dr. C. P. Penn, Superintendent, Surry County Schools

The level of education today in comparison to the situation when the Assembly was first organized here is vastly improved. The students on the elementary level tested from the seventeenth to the twenty-seventh percentile on the SRA test. On the high school level they tested from the tenth to the seventeenth percentile, which was one of the lowest scores in the state of Virginia. Today our

students test on the elementary level from the forty-fifth to the seventy-fifth percentile and on the secondary level from the thirty-eighth to somewhere near the fiftieth percentile. So we have come a long way. We were sending approximately 25 percent of our students to some form of higher education in 1977; today we are sending between 60 and 75 percent.

Commentator

In Surry, poverty is becoming a relic of the Old South. There is so little crime that the jail has been closed. And an aggressive health-care program is working to bring good health care to all county residents. While the statistics of Surry's transformation are impressive, the best indicator of change is the new spirit of the communities' young people.

In other southern counties, citizens are also hard at work using the Assembly's structure to tackle their problems.

L. Essex Moseley, President, Assembly of
Charlotte County, Virginia

We selected the senior citizens as a priority when we started out because we didn't have anything going for them here in Charlotte County. And being newly retired, I was, you might say, a senior citizen myself. One of the first things we worked on was to bring a nutrition program to the elderly. We also bought a forty-passenger bus and equipped it with camper toilets so that they could ride around over the

countryside, and we took them to such places as the Coliseum in Richmond, the Ice Capades, Old Williamsburg—most anywhere they'd like to go. It was something they needed because a lot of them were what you might call housebound; they had no way of going anywhere.

Isaac Long, President, Assembly of Caswell County, North Carolina

Well, here in Caswell County we do have a housing problem. We have a lot of people who are living in houses with no toilet facilities, not even indoor running water. In the school system we have a problem about hiring for racial balance and things of that nature. And I feel the Assembly can really help us get that solved.

Thomas A. Chilton, Sr., President, Assembly of Appomattox County, Virginia

We set up a county-wide voter registration drive. And we conducted that for two years until we got every eligible person in the county registered, or almost everybody. That was terrific. I've never seen volunteers work so dedicated at a job. Among other things, we're going to build a community center. It will be a place primarily for recreation, for training, for teaching. It will house a lot of the social services. We'll have workshops, primarily for the elderly and the youth. We raised the money by having raffles, picnics, singings, and by individual contributions.

Commentator

The Black Belt is still an area of desperate poverty, an area many of the residents have left in search of greater opportunity in the North. But many remain trapped. All of these Black Belt counties are potential locations for the Assembly structure. Mr. C. C. Pedaway explains what can happen when people understand the power of the Assembly: "It works. Then they have faith in themselves. Then they will tell their friends, it caught afire; it caught afire and went across our county."

Henry Elly, President, Assembly of Parson County, North Carolina

My advice to the people of the county would be to come together and get involved in an Assembly. That will give them an opportunity to have input and an opportunity to know where to go to get answers to some of their questions. For years and years they have not known where to go; they have gone to individual people. For example, here in Roxboro, so many of them come to me with Social Security questions and questions about sidewalks and water and things like that. They don't have the expertise themselves, and they don't know who to go to, so they go to an individual. My experience is that individuals cannot, by themselves, solve their problems. They have to be solved through a strong organization, where you know that you have someone supporting you and you're asking the question in the right way and you're going to the proper source to get the answers.

Commentator

More important than the programs and the statistics are the individual lives that have been changed. Debbie Hardy's dreams had been crushed . She told the Surry Assembly she could not qualify for college admission because her school did not have a math teacher. With the help of the Central Office of the Assemblies, Debbie was the first black to enter Chatham Hall, a prestigious Virginia prep school. Now she has completed her medical residency in obstetrics and gynecology.

Michael Forest was working in the tobacco fields when he won the Assembly music competition. The prize for that victory was a scholarship to the Shenandoah Conservatory of Music. He made his debut at the Kennedy Center in 1986 and placed second in the Metropolitan Opera's Mid-Atlantic Competition. His career has blossomed, and his performances have received rave reviews in Europe. [Since 1989 he has been performing on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera in New York.]

Through scholarship programs, the Assemblies have sent many other students to prep schools and colleges. The Assembly is a proven idea that works. It is an idea that offers real hope for ending the vicious cycle of poverty that has strangled countless aspirations. Through the Assembly, communities have become unified to focus on goals that can make a real difference. And the result is a more equitable sharing of power, enabling the poor to take the last steps away from slavery.

[end of film]

There are a lot of people who want urgently and earnestly to deal with the problem of poverty in this country, and they believe that to do so they must first come up with a program. That is the conventional way of doing things. But sometimes progress comes about when an unconventional course is taken instead. Take the example of Mr. Singer, who wanted to invent a sewing machine. He had the conventional idea, handed down over many centuries, of a needle with the point on one end and the hole on the other, and he worked on his invention for many years without success. Then—and this is a true story—he had a dream that he was captured by cannibals, who were going to kill him. As he looked up at their spears, he saw a hole right next to the point. He woke up the next morning and invented the sewing machine, so important to the Industrial Revolution in this country.

Like Mr. Singer, we have addressed a problem the opposite way from the conventional approach.

Surry County, Virginia, was the first place I went with my idea in 1968 after leaving Congress. Surry County was a mess. It was wracked by racial disharmony. There were no medical facilities, no recreational facilities. The schools had been integrated, and all but six white students had left the school system. Most employment was on farms or on the janitorial level.

When I presented my idea, people asked me why I didn't address the problem in a straightforward manner. Why did I have to talk about such a complicated structure,

which most people in Surry County wouldn't even understand? I told them that, in general, people get what they want if they organize first, like the labor unions when they are well organized, and *then* ask what needs to be done.

Things got so bad, people finally said, "All right, let's give this thing a try." Today, of course, the community has been completely transformed, and Surry has our model Assembly. Per capita income rose—and these are the poor people who made it happen—from $2,200 to $19,000, which is above the national average. They raised millions for recreational facilities and medical facilities. Since 1985 they've led all school districts in Virginia in the percentage going on to college. It was 65 percent then; it's 95 percent today, with the dropout rate at 1.7 percent There has been so little crime—six robberies in twelve years, two drug arrests in fourteen years—that they closed the jail. What these people have done is create a "dream society." Surry County is a microcosm of what the rest of the country could be. If you want inspiration, just go to Surry County and see for yourself.

The first question you might ask is, How do you get the poorest and most unsophisticated people in the United States to create and engage in such an intricate organization? And they *are* engaged. If you go to an area where there is an Assembly, you will see a large turnout of people. (Assembly meetings are better attended, I might say, than prayer meetings, which of course are a very important feature of the black culture.) Poor people in forty-one counties and two cities have brought into their communities millions of dollars in resources to change their lives.

The Assembly technique does not begin with program

but with structure. The structure encourages self-help initiatives, which in turn create programs that are fitted to the community's needs and deal with common problems. Such an approach assures that the initiatives undertaken by the leadership of the poor reflect the judgment of the entire low-income community and are concurred in by a majority. It provides a method by which the poor may judge the policies of their leaders and give assent to those policies.

The arrangement known as the Assembly is not intended as a temporary expedient but as a permanent institution. It is not organized around issues but according to an abstract structure. Nor is it organized around any fixed objectives but adheres to a rigid pattern meant to deal with whatever problems emerge. As a result, the community's capacity for dealing with problems and needs increases over time.

Assemblies are non-political, although they can have political consequences. Virginia provides an example of this. It was the existence of the Assembly that brought Charles Robb into office, first as Lieutenant Governor and then as Governor. The black vote was essential to those races, as it was to the election of the first black governor in the United States, Doug Wilder. When I was talking with him about six months ago, I said, "It was the votes of blacks and women that decided the contest between Robb and Oliver North." And Wilder said, "It was the black vote. Robb got only 37 percent of the white vote."

Before we established Assemblies, people just weren't voting They were discouraged. One of their leaders said, "You know, we lost the election of one of our people by just thirty-six votes. I sat down and cried." But when the people

finally said, "Let's give it a try," they gained a majority in the county government within five months. The same thing happened throughout the Assembly areas; blacks were elected to county governments and city governments for the first time since Reconstruction.

I took people from the Ford Foundation to Surry County for a site visit about three years ago. A little old woman standing at the first site we visited saw me, came up to me, and asked, "Aren't you Donald Anderson?" I said I was. She said, "Let me tell you, I never dreamed there could be such change during my lifetime as that which has occurred here."

The problem of poverty is one of the most critical issues for the richest country the world has ever known. It hangs over America like a heavy burden. Yet there are solutions, and I believe the concept of the Assembly is one of them.

For further information about The Assembly contact:
Donald Anderson
National Association for the Southern Poor
712 A 3rd Street, S. W.
Washington, D. C. 20024
202-554-3265

Annual E. F. Schumacher Lectures

available in pamphlet form from the
E. F. Schumacher Society

Gar Alperovitz, *Distributing Our Technological Inheritance*, 1994

Donald Anderson, *The Assembly*, 1996

Thomas Berry, *The Ecozoic Era*, 1991

David Brower, *It's Healing Time on Earth*, 1992

Elise Boulding, *The Family as a Small Society*, 1982

George Davis, *Ecologically Sustainable Economic Development*, 1993

David Ehrenfeld, *The Management Explosion and the Next Environmental Crisis*, 1993

Hazel Henderson, *Development Beyond Economism*, 1990

Ivan Illich, *The Wisdom of Leopold Kohr*, 1994

Dana Lee Jackson, *Women and the Challenge of the Ecological Era*, 1990

Wes Jackson, *Becoming Native to this Place*, 1993

_____, *Call for a Revolution in Agriculture*, 1981

Jane Jacobs, *The Economy of Regions*, 1983

Leopold Kohr, *Why Small is Beautiful*, 1990

Winona LaDuke, *Voices from White Earth: Gaa-waabaabiganikaag*, 1993

Frances Moore Lappé, *Toward a Politics of Hope*, 1985

John McClaughry, *Bringing Power Back Home*, 1989

John McKnight, *John Deere and the Bereavement Counselor*, 1984

George McRobie, *The Community's Role in Appropriate Technology*, 1982

Stephanie Mills, *Making Amends to the Myriad Creatures*, 1991

John Mohawk, *How the Conquest of Indigenous Peoples Parallels the Conquest of Nature*, 1997

David Morris, *Reclaiming Community*, 1996

Helena Norberg-Hodge, *Moving Toward Community*, 1996

David Orr, *Environmental Literacy*, 1992

Kirkpatrick Sale, *The Columbian Legacy and the Ecosterian Response*, 1992

_____, *Mother of All*, 1983

Cathrine Sneed, *The Garden Project*, 1995

Charlene Spretnak, *Green Politics*, 1984

John Todd, *Toward an Ecological Economic Order*, 1985

Jakob von Uexkull, *The Right Livelihood Award*, 1992

Greg Watson, *The Wisdom That Builds Community*, 1997

Arthur Zajonc, *Buddhist Technology*, 1997

Other E. F. Schumacher Society Pamphlets:

Susan Witt and Robert Swann, *Local Currencies*, 1995

_____, *Land: Challenge and Opportunity*, 1995

Hunter Hannum, *Wagner and the Fate of the Earth*, 1991

Many of the lectures and essays listed above are collected in ***People, Land, and Community***, edited by Hildegarde Hannum (Yale University Press, 1997), available at local booksellers.

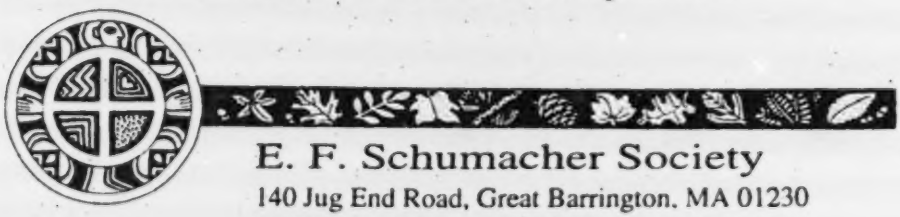
Pamphlets are $5 each from the E. F. Schumacher Society.
140 Jug End Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230
(413) 528-1737, www.schumachersociety.org
A complete publication list is available on request.

"Development does not start with goods; it starts with people and their education, organization, and discipline. Without these three, all resources remain latent, untapped, potential."

E. F. Schumacher, *Small Is Beautiful: Economics as if People Mattered*

Among the many contributions to the debate on economic policy, the works of E. F. Schumacher present a clear, integrated vision of a decentralized and sustainable economy that nourishes the earth and its inhabitants. The E. F. Schumacher Society, located in the southern Berkshire region of western Massachusetts, was founded in 1980 as a membership organization to implement Schumacher's ideas in practical programs for economic self-reliance. The Annual E. F. Schumacher Lectures, sponsored by the Society, and the library of the E. F. Schumacher Center are acquainting a growing number of people with the promise and viability of Schumacher's concepts.

Contributions made to the E. F. Schumacher Society are tax deductible. Annual membership is $50.



E. F. Schumacher Society
140 Jug End Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230
(413) 528-1737 <www.schumachersociety.org>

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI)
National Library of Education (NLE)
Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC)

ERIC®

REPRODUCTION RELEASE

(Specific Document)

I. DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION:

Title: **The Assembly: A Tool for Transforming Communities**

Author(s): Donald Anderson

Corporate Source: Nat'l Community Dev. Org

Publication Date: Oct 1996

II. REPRODUCTION RELEASE:

In order to disseminate as widely as possible timely and significant materials of interest to the educational community, documents announced in the monthly abstract journal of the ERIC system, *Resources in Education* (RIE), are usually made available to users in microfiche, reproduced paper copy, and electronic media, and sold through the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS). Credit is given to the source of each document, and, if reproduction release is granted, one of the following notices is affixed to the document.

If permission is granted to reproduce and disseminate the identified document, please CHECK ONE of the following three options and sign at the bottom of the page.

The sample sticker shown below will be affixed to all Level 1 documents

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Sample

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

1

Level 1 ☐

Check here for Level 1 release, permitting reproduction and dissemination in microfiche or other ERIC archival media (e.g., electronic) *and* paper copy.

The sample sticker shown below will be affixed to all Level 2A documents

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL IN MICROFICHE, AND IN ELECTRONIC MEDIA FOR ERIC COLLECTION SUBSCRIBERS ONLY, HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Sample

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

2A

Level 2A ☑

Check here for Level 2A release, permitting reproduction and dissemination in microfiche and in electronic media for ERIC archival collection subscribers only

The sample sticker shown below will be affixed to all Level 2B documents

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL IN MICROFICHE ONLY HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Sample

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

2B

Level 2B ☐

Check here for Level 2B release, permitting reproduction and dissemination in microfiche only

Documents will be processed as indicated provided reproduction quality permits.
If permission to reproduce is granted, but no box is checked, documents will be processed at Level 1.

I hereby grant to the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) nonexclusive permission to reproduce and disseminate this document as indicated above. Reproduction from the ERIC microfiche or electronic media by persons other than ERIC employees and its system contractors requires permission from the copyright holder. Exception is made for non-profit reproduction by libraries and other service agencies to satisfy information needs of educators in response to discrete inquiries.

Sign here, → please

Signature: Donald Z Anderson	Printed Name/Position/Title: Exec. Director
Organization/Address: Nat'l Community Development Org	Telephone: 202/542-265 FAX: 202/449-0734
	E-Mail Address: NCDC@gte.net Date: 6/15/02

(RC022121) (over)

III. DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY INFORMATION (FROM NON-ERIC SOURCE):

If permission to reproduce is not granted to ERIC, *or*, if you wish ERIC to cite the availability of the document from another source, please provide the following information regarding the availability of the document. (ERIC will not announce a document unless it is publicly available, and a dependable source can be specified. Contributors should also be aware that ERIC selection criteria are significantly more stringent for documents that cannot be made available through EDRS.)

Publisher/Distributor:
Address:
Price:

IV. REFERRAL OF ERIC TO COPYRIGHT/REPRODUCTION RIGHTS HOLDER:

If the right to grant this reproduction release is held by someone other than the addressee, please provide the appropriate name and address:

Name:
Address:

V. WHERE TO SEND THIS FORM:

Send this form to the following ERIC Clearinghouse:

ERIC/CRESS AT AEL
1031 QUARRIER STREET - 8TH FLOOR
P O BOX 1348
CHARLESTON WV 25325

phone: 800/624-9120

However, if solicited by the ERIC Facility, or if making an unsolicited contribution to ERIC, return this form (and the document being contributed) to:

ERIC Processing and Reference Facility
4483-A Forbes Boulevard
Lanham, Maryland 20706
Telephone: 301-552-4200
Toll Free: 800-799-3742
FAX: 301-552-4700
email: info@ericfac.piccard.csc.com
WWW: http://ericfacility.org

EFF-088 (Rev. 9/97)
PREVIOUS VERSIONS OF THIS FORM ARE OBSOLETE.